



# Allandale Neighbor

June 2008  
Vol 23, Issue 3

DISTRIBUTED TO MORE THAN 3,100 HOMES BY THE ALLANDALE NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

## Allandale Neighborhood Watch Program Underway

Laura DiCarlo

The Neighborhood Watch program is underway in Allandale once again. At the April 28th block captain training that was held at Genuine Joe's, Officer Vargas went over the basics of being a block captain with about 25 participants. Around a dozen more have taken part in make-up trainings with Laura DiCarlo. Laura continues to recruit block captains, and will do so until all of Allandale is covered. That means one captain for every 10 houses! Training takes just a few minutes and can be done at each participant's convenience.

The key to Neighborhood Watch is for all of us to watch out for our neighbors. The job of the block captain is to help facilitate this communication. The block captains who are already in place are now in the process of sending out introductory letters to their

neighbors and will be holding Neighborhood Watch meetings for block members to get to



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know each other better and compile contact lists. Block captains will be officially registered with the Austin police department and will be eligible to hold annual National Night Out block parties. Austin has permission this year to hold the National Night Out block parties on October 7 instead of August 5

because it is always so hot at the beginning of August. For more information about National Night Out go to [www.natw.org](http://www.natw.org).

For block captain information, please call (323-6929) or e-mail Laura DiCarlo at [lbdicarlo@yahoo.com](mailto:lbdicarlo@yahoo.com). ♦

*Austin will hold National Night Out on October 7.*



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**Hang Town Grill Grand Opening Celebration for ANA members—Be on the lookout for exact date and time in mid-July. Call Cynthia at 371-3853 to reserve a spot.**

## The Allandale Neighbor

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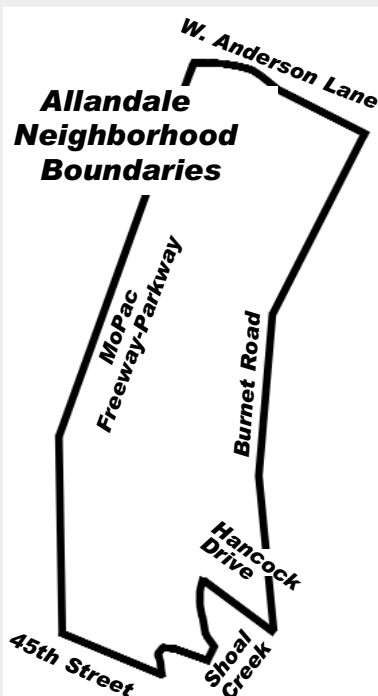
ANA General Meetings are held March and September  
on the fourth Thursday. The Executive Committee  
meets at 6:30 p.m. at the Yarbrough Library, 2200  
Hancock Drive, on the fourth Thursday every month.  
Meetings are open to the public.

### Committees

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## ANA President's Letter

Tom Linchan

The Fourth of July Parade is around the corner and, for me, it's a reminder of one of the things that makes Allandale unique. Other neighborhoods have Fourth of July Parades but I'd like to believe they don't compare to ours. Get your parade gear ready! As always, you are encouraged to show off. Most parade-goers celebrate by decorating themselves or their preferred mode of transportation—whether that's bicycle, tricycle, scooter, or classic car—or both. Each year we give out awards for the most patriotic costume and for best decorated bicycle, scooter, wagon, car/truck, float, and pet. We also recognize the Most Unusual decoration and give a Grand Marshall award.

It has been a busy Spring for Allandale. We have had a number of events: the Celebrate Allandale picnic at North-west Park, the Tyke and Bike Ride, It's My Park Day, and our annual Super Sale. We've also made great progress in laying the foundation for a Neighborhood Watch program, thanks in large part to Laura DiCarlo's success in recruiting and training block captains. Right around the time this newsletter is delivered, we will be meeting with the city council about our VMU application. Our hearing with the City Council is scheduled for June 18th. The Allandale Neighborhood Association's VMU committee, headed up by Paulette Kern, has put considerable time and effort into ensuring our interests are followed with regard to development along Burnet and Anderson roads. This has included meeting individually with

the Planning Commission and City Council members, as well as researching and preparing supporting materials to defend our desires for the developments along Burnet and Anderson roads.

Gas prices are putting a strain on our pocketbooks. If you are like me, you start considering whether there is someplace closer by to go to get what you need. I was talking to Marc Miller, an Allandale resident and member of the Austin Cycling Association, who said the turnout for bike-to-work day this year was much higher than in years past. It tells me people are not only looking to conserve gas but are also considering alternate means of getting around. Nathan Dooley interviewed some of the people in Allandale who use their bicycle for transportation and offers tips on commuting. Read about it in his article, "Bike-to-Work Day 2008."

The commercial and retail mix along Burnet Road and Anderson Lane is changing faster than we can report. Probably none of these businesses is new to anyone; however, when you step back you recognize that there are lot changes taking place. On Burnet Road, Miguel's Imports opened up across from Sue Patrick; Hey Cupcake! and Hangtown Grill will be opening up soon just south of Koenig; the Frisco moved up the road to where Curra's used to be; the old Frisco has been torn down and will be replaced by a Walgreens; and the Farmer's Market is up for sale again. On Anderson Lane, a Walgreens opened up close to Northcross, and across the street an Office Max is going up where

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the old post office used to be. Big plans for a mixed use development are also underway for the Village Shopping Center—more to come about that in a future issue.

Because there is so much activity in and around Allandale, it is important that we continue the tradition of maintaining a strong neighborhood association. Our annual elections are coming up in September. If you are interested in helping out, I encourage you to consider running for a place on the ANA Executive Committee. We are looking for people interested in helping to build community where they live, Allandale.

There is a lot of good information in this edition of the newsletter. I thank all of the volunteers involved in putting it together, from the people who submitted the stories to the people like Cathy Savage who handles advertising and the layout of the newsletter and Jen Welch, who copyedits it. We welcome your input. Comments on stories are encouraged, as are suggestions for future articles. Ideas about what you want to see in the newsletter and what you don't are also helpful. Email [allandaleneighbor@gmail.com](mailto:allandaleneighbor@gmail.com) or send a letter to Allandale Neighbor, PO Box 10886,

Austin, TX 78766-1886. Be sure to title it "Letter to the Editor." ❖

## The Value of the Telephone Tree

*Trudy Evans*

In 1989, Beverly Harkey and I started a Neighborhood Watch for Ellise and Albata Streets, the 2 one-block streets east of Northwest Park. There had been a rash of car vandalism and property theft on our streets, and our neighbors needed to be warned. We gathered a list of neighbors and their phone numbers and set up a telephone tree. We participated in the National Night Out get together, and everyone brought goodies to eat and drink. An APD officer came to speak with us and handed out stickers to the kids. When Austin firefighters came with their truck, the adults were just as entertained as the kids!

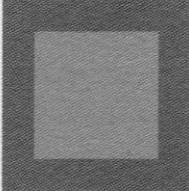
Some minor vandalism and property thefts continued, but we

had become more aware of activity in our area, and we felt safe. You never know when you might need to become a strong and focused group, however. A child molester was paroled to a house in the middle of our block! We held a meeting with his parole officer and her supervisor at a neighbor's house to see how we could have him removed. They explained this could happen only if he violated the conditions of his parole. In response, we met again and organized a Safe House Program—an idea a neighbor remembered from his childhood. What is a Safe House? A Safe House is a safe place for our children to go to or call in the event they feel threatened, afraid, hurt, or see something unusual. Twelve families on Ellise and Albata volunteered to be "safe houses." A Safe House Tour gave our children the opportunity to get acquainted with each house and meet the families. Fortunately,

we never had to use our safe houses. A few months later the child molester violated his parole and was arrested.

You also never know when everyone in the neighborhood will need to be contacted quickly. Our telephone tree was rarely used except to spread the word about recent crime. However, one Saturday a neighbor's 6-year-old son disappeared on his new bike with the training wheels on. His mother

*Continued on page 4*



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## Telephone Tree

*Continued from page 3*

called Beverly and me, and we activated the telephone tree. Within minutes, neighbors were canvassing the neighborhood anxiously looking for him. Within 45 minutes he was found across Burnet Road in Crestview. That adventurous lad turned 23 last month.

It hasn't all been serious business. Over the years we've organized block parties, street-wide yard sales, egg hunts, Christmas caroling, and a Gourmet Club—a monthly get together at different houses for good food and good company. Even those who have moved away continue to attend these dinners.

From our list of Neighborhood Watch names and numbers we've developed important connections with our neighbors. We know our elderly neighbors and check on them. Because we know most of our neighbors' pets, we make sure our neighbor's escaped dog gets back into his yard, instead of calling Animal Control. We also know which neighbor to ask for advice or resources, and we look out for each other's property.

As each Allandale street organizes a Neighborhood Watch, every member will benefit in ways unimaginable. As we form these cohesive bonds, street by street we will be making Allandale a safer and more cooperative place to live. ♦

## 2008 Super Sale

*Linnea Anderson*

Thanks to everyone who contributed to the Super Sale on May 3. In the end, we were aware of 35 sales. I managed to visit 23 of the sales. Many participants shared lots of great ideas and suggestions for next year. The majority of the sales reported good foot-traffic and were pleased with the number of shoppers. It was particularly great to see neighbors helping each other out.

Thank you to the neighbors who pulled together to help make this event successful, especially the sale hosts for long hours spent preparing and the neighbors who endured extra traffic and parking hassles.

The next Super Sale is slated for May 2, 2009.

Please contact Linnea Anderson at 750-8902 with ideas for making the Super Sale better next year. ♦

## History of Austin Memorial Park Cemetery: A Texas Historic Cemetery

*Sharon Blythe*

Austin Memorial Park cemetery came into being 80 years ago last August when Gladys and J. T. Bowman sold 112.75 acres of land to Austin Memorial Park, a private corporation, for the sum of \$10 "and other good and valuable consideration." The first burial occurred in the same year. It is now the primary cemetery in the City of Austin that still has available space. And since no other cemetery can, by law, be created within the city limits or within three miles of any city, those spaces become more important every day.

Austin Memorial Park has recently been designated a Texas Historical Cemetery by the Texas Historical Commission—a fitting tribute to an area that has

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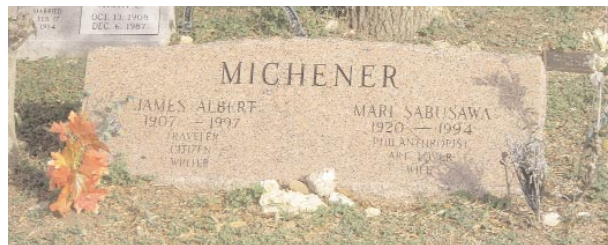
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contributed so much to the history of Austin and Travis County.

Now located at 2800 Hancock in Austin, the cemetery can be seen to the east of MoPac between 45th street and Northland Drive. In 1927 the western boundary of Austin Memorial Park was the center of the railroad tracks—now the Missouri Pacific but then the Great Northern. The eastern border was the center of Shoal Creek. The southern edge ran along “Burnet Road,” which is now called Hancock Drive. And the northern boundary was roughly what it is today, except that Covenant Presbyterian

Church and the Northwest Recreation Center were built on land included in the original park. Of the original 112.75, only 96 acres remain as cemetery today due to the city selling parcels of cemetery land and the expansion of MoPac. The City of Austin selling or renting the cemetery is a real danger to its preservation.

In 1941, Austin Memorial Park was sold to the City of Austin for \$56,000. The care and maintenance of the ceme-



*James Michener Gravesite.*



*Entrance to Austin Memorial Park Cemetery.*

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tery became the responsibility of the city, which assigned the responsibility to the Parks and Recreation Department. PARD has since contracted with Intercare Corporation of San Marcos to furnish the necessary services. (A problem encountered by those interested in maintaining Austin cemeteries is that it is not clear exactly which responsibilities belong to the city and which to the corporation.)

The buildings close to the Park entrance were built between August 1927, and spring, 1928, and are in disrepair today due a lack of City of Austin maintenance. The original idea was that the cemetery superintendent would live on the property and supervise all internments. Another of the buildings was to be chapel.

Austin Memorial Park is the final resting place of a great many veterans, particularly those of “the greatest generation,” WWII service members. Two Civil War veterans are buried there, along with veterans from the Spanish-American War, WWI, Vietnam, and at least one veteran of the war in Iraq. There is no question but that this is sacred ground for U.S. Service personnel.

The diverse culture of Austin in the 20th and 21st centuries is indicted by names and monuments— German, French, Hispanic, Asian, and others. One grave has no marker except a Buddhist statue.

Three famous University of Texas coaches are buried in Austin Memorial Park. Dana X. Bible was a charter member of the National Football Hall of Fame. Bibb Falk coached the first college baseball team to win two consecutive titles. And Harvey Penick was famous as a golf coach and as author of *Harvey Penick's Little Red Book*, a best-selling golf book.

James Michener, best-selling author of *Texas* and *Tales of the South Pacific* (from which the musical *South Pacific* was made), in addition to numerous other books, is buried in Austin Memorial Park, along with his wife, Mari Yoriko Sabusawa, a well-known art collector and philanthropist. Michener's book *Sayonara* is said to be at least partially autobiographical. Michener funded the James A. Michener fellowship at the University of Texas Michener Center for Writers.

Francis Hamer, the Texas Ranger who tracked down the famous outlaws Bonnie and Clyde, is also interred in the cemetery, next to his son, Billy, who was killed in the battle of Iwo Jima.

Austin Memorial Park Cemetery is a historical treasure worthy of preservation. ❖

## Bike-to-Work Day 2008

Nathan Dooley

On Friday, May 16, I walked up Shoal Creek Boulevard to the beginning of the path to the pedestrian bridge that crosses over Mopac. There were many bicycles on the road that morning—roughly double the number of cars, by my count. Many cyclists were stopping at the breakfast station set up by the pedestrian bridge path, in search of a free meal. Although breakfast was late to arrive, the cyclists were uniformly polite and most seemed quite happy to be enjoying the fresh morning air.

This breakfast station was one of several locations around town that provided a free meal that morning to cyclists. The occasion for the free food was Bike-to-Work Day, which occurs every May. In turn, Bike-to-Work Day is part of a broader set of bike-related activities that take place each May, including Bike-to-Work Week (May 12 – 16 this year) and National Bike Month.

Many folks in the neighborhood regularly ride their bikes to work. For exam-

ple, Tom Watterson has been riding his bike to work every day for several years. Originally, he rode to Austin High School, where he was a teacher. Now he teaches at McCallum HS, and his daily ride has become much shorter and easier. Tom commutes by bike for several reasons: it's a healthy choice, it's less stressful (and often quicker) than driving in rush hour traffic, and it helps him set a good example for his students.

Like Tom, other Allandale neighbors have found bikes to be well-suited to their daily commute. They have varying reasons for choosing to ride instead of driving:

Caden Schaefer loves cycling, but also plans to save money by eliminating a car and reducing his gasoline consumption.

MeriJayd O'Connor bikes to help the environment by decreasing her carbon output and to save money by buying less gas.

Like MeriJayd and Caden, Steven Zettner is motivated by environmental concerns. Additionally, he finds that cycling helps to fit exercise into his schedule and is less stressful than driving.

Charlie Scott enjoys being able to get exercise while on his way to work, and finds that biking saves both parking and gas money.

Chris LeBlanc, who often bikes to work with his wife Pam, has been commuting by bike for the last nine years or so. "All in all," says Chris, "it's been very good." So good, in fact, that he now serves on the Austin Bicycle Advisory Committee, which seeks to give a voice to cyclists in our city.

In addition to helping the environment and being a money saver, biking can be a fun family activity, too. Steven Zettner says, "I bought a forward-positioned child seat to take my 2-year-old daughter to school. It's like she's sitting in my lap, and she gets to hold the handlebars. She was every bit as excited as Daddy about getting a bike and has just loved riding it to school."

Of course, biking to work is not exactly a leisurely ride in the park. For one thing, Austin is hot for much of the year, and most cyclists don't want to show up to work sweaty. Cold weather can also be very uncomfortable, as can hard rain. Seasonal allergies



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may occasionally make it difficult to ride regularly. Also, bikes can be easier to steal than cars (Pam LeBlanc had a bike stolen from work). Finally, drivers can occasionally be rude or inconsiderate, and car traffic can be heavy or fast on some roads.

Despite these limitations, the neighbors interviewed for this article were uniformly positive about their cycling experiences.

In part, this may be because riding a bike to work is not necessarily an all-or-nothing choice. Many regular bike commuters choose to drive at least once a week, and some commuters drive more frequently than they cycle. Starting out by biking just one day a week may be a good way to test the concept and ease into a more regular bike commute.

#### **A few other neighborly tips on bike commuting:**

Get appropriate equipment. Your needs will vary depending on your circumstances but might include a trail-friendly bike, a helmet, a sturdy lock, and a backpack or rack/saddle bags to carry papers or a change of clothes (if you plan to change after cycling). Many of these items are available used and need not cost a lot of money.

If you have trouble shifting gears on most bikes, consider a bike with internal hub gears—or, if you'd like a physical challenge, a single-speed bike.

Be able and willing to change a flat tire on occasion. It's not very difficult, and small, portable tire-changing kits are widely available for little cost.

Use flashing lights when out after dark (and perhaps during the day in order to be more noticeable).

Plan your route carefully. Many of the streets that are best suited for driving (Burnet, Lamar, Mopac, etc.) have heavy traffic that moves too quickly to be safe for cyclists. Take bike routes and/or ride through neighborhoods—they're more scenic, anyway!

Obey traffic laws. Bikes are moving vehicles that are expected to obey the law. Traffic violations can lead to tickets, and, even more importantly, can be dangerous because they make it hard for drivers to predict what cyclists will do.

Even if you missed Bike-to-Work Day, it's never too late to try commuting by bike—unless you require a free breakfast. In that case, you may need to wait until Bike-to-Work Day rolls around again next year. ❖

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## It's My Park Day

*Linnea Anderson*

Happy Day, both clean-ups were a success! This year brought more volunteers, more achievements, and substantial improvements in Northwest Park and along Great Northern trail.

Along Great Northern, volunteers cleared brush along the bike path by the little league fields, planted a crepe myrtle, marked the existing crepe myrtles, removed debris from the street, and picked up trash.

At Northwest Park, teams cleared algae from the surface of the pond, removed trash from the island, and painted sign-posts and the detention wall railing. In addition to the registered volunteers, several neighbors visiting the park caught the volunteer spirit and joined in.

### **All in all, volunteers:**

- Gave 112 hours of service,
- Cleared the pond of algae,
- Weeded decomposed granite paths

- around the basketball court,
- Picked up 40 bags of trash, and
- Painted 25 feet of railing and 12 sign posts.

The volunteers were amazing! There were families, grandparents and grandchildren, young and old all working together on the clean-up.

The Parks and Recreation Department provided significant support for these clean-ups.

They even provided several PARD employees to teach volunteers how to skim algae, in addition to providing supplies for skimming the algae and paint for the railing and sign posts.

Every time we clean up a space, it not only improves it for a day, but

reduces trash and abuse in the coming months. (Visitors see the volunteers, and think twice about leaving their trash lying around)

A special thank you to Malcolm St. Romain and Margie Gordon. As site contacts in Northwest Park, they provided substantial support and tremendous volunteer spirit. Be sure to thank them for their commitment and accomplishments. ❖



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# 2nd Annual Tyke and Bike Ride

*Tom Linehan*

It was a good Saturday morning for a bike ride, with temperatures in the 70s. The riders were eager to go. In attendance were bicycles, bicycles with training wheels, tricycles, a scooter, skate boards, strollers, and a guy dressed up like a cow calling himself Cow Daddy. I am talking about this year's Tyke and Bike Ride. What a colorful, fun event! Five minutes after Cow Daddy gave riders the "on your mark, get set, go" signal, we had about 40 young riders stretched along North-

land on their way to Amy's Ice Cream. Thanks to Laura Slaughter, Marlene Meador, and all the volunteers who helped organize this year's event, and to Marc Miller, Allandale resident and officer of the Austin Cycling Association, who gave a primer on proper helmet fit and placement. Most importantly, thanks to our sponsors, Amy's Ice Cream and Nelo's Pro Cycles, for their donations of ice cream and bike accessories. ❖







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# Hey, Neighbor — Let's Get Wild! Take the Challenge!

Cheryl Silver, [csilver2@austin.rr.com](mailto:csilver2@austin.rr.com), 454-7219

Something very exciting is happening across Austin and it would be grand if Allandale could jump in and take part! We need all Allandalers to participate in order to win.

So, what's going on? The City of Austin is aiming to become the first Certified Community Wildlife Habitat in Texas. As part of the process, neighborhoods are working to get homes and other sites in their neighborhood (including the grounds of churches, businesses, schools, etc.) enrolled as Certified Wildlife Habitats. We have until the end of October to get our certifications done. Any site certified between May 1, 2008 and the end of October 2008 counts toward our neighborhood total.

There are prizes for the top three winning neighborhoods. I know some of our surrounding neighborhoods are already getting started, but I believe Allandale can win the top prize.

Getting your home (or other neighborhood site) certified is not difficult and the benefits are huge! Essentially,

your site needs to provide food sources, water sources, cover/shelter for wildlife, and you need to practice sustainable gardening practices such as mulching, reducing/eliminating the use of invasive non-native plants, and conserving water.

I have just barely skimmed the surface of the possibilities of getting certified, but beware — once you find your yard attracting more birds, toads, lizards, and butterflies you may just want to do more and more.

I am completing the training to be a Wildlife Habitat Steward and am here to help you with planning, learning, answering questions and finding resources when I don't have an answer. Many of your neighbors are already certified and we have tremendous resources right here in Allandale.

My contact info is below. Contact me if you want to learn more, lend a hand, provide muscle to a neighbor who may want to plant some special plants and could use help, or discuss a wildlife habitat for your Allandale business,

church, daycare center, etc. Also, if you are part of a scout troop or other organization that wants to help, please let me know.

Each participating neighborhood must do a project where we remove non-native invasive plants, so hold that thought!

Looking forward to hearing from you! ❖

## Have you joined ANA's Newsgroup?

It's a great way to stay abreast of neighborhood issues, find a carpenter, learn about residential and commercial zoning, plus share thoughts and ideas that affect Allandale.

Go to <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/allandale/> to sign up.

Click on "Join This Group" then follow instructions.

## Allandale Calendar Update Allandale Neighborhood Association 2008 Calendar

Day	Date	Activity
Wednesday	June 25	Call for articles for August newsletter
Thursday	June 26	ANA EC Meeting — Ralph Yarborough Library, 2200 Hancock Dr
Friday	July 4	Allandale Fourth of July Parade
Thursday	July 24	ANA EC Meeting — Ralph Yarborough Library, 2200 Hancock Dr
Friday	August 15 – August 21	August <i>Allandale Neighbor</i> delivered
Monday	August 25	Call for articles for October newsletter
Thursday	August 28	ANA EC Meeting — Ralph Yarborough Library, 2200 Hancock Dr
Thursday	September 25	ANA General Membership Meeting — Ralph Yarborough Library, 2200 Hancock Dr
Tuesday	October 7	Austin Celebrates National Night Out
Wednesday	October 15 – October 21	October <i>Allandale Neighbor</i> delivered
Tuesday	October 21	Annual MoNAC meeting — Westminster Manor 6:30 p.m.
Thursday	October 23	ANA EC Meeting — Ralph Yarborough Library, 2200 Hancock Dr
Saturday	October 25	Allandale Masquerade Ball
		Call for articles for December newsletter
Monday	December 15 – December 19	December <i>Allandale Neighbor</i> delivered



## Outcome of VMU Hearing with the Planning Commission

Tom Linehan

On Tuesday night, May 13, a group of Allandale Neighborhood Association representatives and concerned residents went to the public hearing with the Planning Commission at City Hall regarding our VMU application. Based on a number of pre-meetings with Planning Commission members and observations gleaned from other neighborhood associations that have gone through the process, we had enough information to know that defending our VMU application would be difficult. It was.

Our top priorities were:

1) to keep the shallow lots along Burnet Road adjacent to single-family residences free from having VMU-zoned designations,

2) to keep the 6400 Burnet Road tract (Burnet Road Storage) from being zoned VMU, and

3) to generate interest in a Town Center approach to achieving density along Burnet and Anderson roads.

We're not against having mixed use developments along Burnet and Anderson roads, but we want to retain the right to have a say in those developments, particularly ones that will have the greatest impact on our neighborhood. This is particularly true with the Burnet Road Storage site. Allandale wants a say regarding traffic flow, drainage, and impact on Lamar Middle School. We think that's reasonable. The Planning Commission did not.

When we concluded the public hearing part of the meeting, a number of the Planning Commission members complimented us on all of the work we did in preparing and thinking through our VMU application. They then proceeded to give us half of what we were asking for. It is frustrating to work so

hard to try to get back what was taken from us. Burnet Road was zoned commercial up until January. At the meeting we were asking to return many of those properties to that zoning category. I felt like we were students being lectured to. "Didn't we understand that with commercial zoning, developers can build 60 foot tall buildings just as they can with VMU zoning?" This is a risk we have lived with, and there aren't many 60 foot tall buildings on Burnet Road today. That will change with VMU. VMU zoning provides a strong incentive to developers to build much more profitable mixed use developments. I'm not making this up, —after the meeting last night a representative for one of the property owners on Burnet Road told me they have been receiving a number of calls in the last three weeks expressing an interest in their property because of the VMU zoning.

We were successful in convincing the Commission of the need to remove many of the shallow lots along Burnet

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Rd from VMU; however, the final vote was 9 – 0 on including in their recommendation to the City Council that Tract 5, the Burnet Road Storage property, be zoned VMU. It was a rough session. I left the meeting around 9:30 glad that we got across our concerns about VMU and adjacent single family residences but feeling bruised from the process.

You can find a link to our presentation on the website. We will be refining it between now and when we have our public hearing with the City Council on June 18. We are not against mixed use developments on Burnet and Anderson. We're confident area residents would support the City's strategy of putting new apartments and condos on streets like Burnet, if the developments were adequately planned and supported with parks, transit, and utilities. ❖



*please recycle this  
newsletter*

## The Allandale Fourth of July Parade

Friday, July 4, 8:30 a.m.

Parade start: corner of Bullard and White Rock

Bring a toy for the Toys for Tots collection on the

Hot Potatoes Float!

Prizes for best-dressed parade participants!

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Joe Reynolds, [joe-rey@texas.net](mailto:joe-rey@texas.net), 454-8880.

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## Hey Cupcake! Coming to Burnet Road

Tom Linehan

Hey Cupcake! will soon be opening up on Burnet Road next to Austin Plumbing Supply. In early May I spoke with Wes Hurt, owner of Hey Cupcake!, and he said he hopes to be open in about three months. He asked that I not go into too many of the details at this time, but said a coffee shop is being considered as part of the mix. He is very excited about the location and being in Allandale. The Austin American-Statesman wrote an article about Hey Cupcake! and the cupcake business in January ("Cupcake businesses thrive in Austin," by Kathy Adams). According to the article, Wes-

ley Hurt is a young entrepreneur who opened up a cupcake stand near the university a little over a year ago. He relocated the stand, a silver Airstream trailer, to South Congress in September. It's doing well! Soon there will be cake for everyone!

<http://www.hey-cupcake.com> ❖



*Hey Cupcake! will soon be new neighbors!*



*Hey Cupcake!'s Airstream location on South Congress*

## Hang Town Grill Opening in Allandale Village

Tom Linehan

In July, Allandale residents will have a new dining option close by in Allandale Village. Hang Town Grill, currently at another location in Westlake, will be opening up where Dry Dock once was. Hang Town has been in operation since 1996 in the Westlake Shopping Village along Capitol of Texas Highway. The restaurant is a family-oriented diner with char-grilled burgers, chicken

sandwiches, gourmet pizzas, and fresh tossed salads. In my correspondence with April Ferguson Smith, Director of Marketing and Communications, she says that Hang Town is particularly excited about its gourmet pizza offering. They are expanding their menu at this location to include small, medium, and large pizzas. Hours of operation will be Sunday through Thursday,



*Hang Town Grill's Allandale location.*

11a.m. – 9 p.m. and Friday through Saturday, 11a.m. – 10 p.m. ❖

## Allandale Storm Drain Improvements

Mark Price

At April's ANA EC meeting, Mark Price, chair of the ANA Drainage Committee, reported that the plans for addressing the flooding problem on White Rock have changed. The original plan called for a storm water detention pond at the site of Burnet Storage on Burnet Road and the installation of underground pipes in the neighborhood. However, the City has decided not to pursue this option due to the high cost of purchasing the land.

Instead the City is considering other, more cost-effective options. The City is working closely with the Allandale Neighborhood Association during this process and is currently evaluating the possibility of installing a storm drain underneath Bull Creek Road that would run down White Horse Trail to south of Northland/2222 and drain water into Shoal Creek.

This project will reduce flooding of houses, yards, and streets caused by an old, inadequate storm water conveyance system in the Allandale neighborhood without making flooding worse for residents living along Shoal Creek. The project is partially funded by the November 2006 Bond Election. ❖

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## Allandale is Looking for a few Good Neighbors

Tom Linehan

The Allandale Neighborhood Association is looking for people interested in serving the neighborhood association's Executive Committee and for our neighborhood committees. Allandale Neighborhood Association works to maintain and improve the quality of life, sense of community, and beauty of our neighborhood. Members of the Executive Committee (EC) meet once a month to review progress and make decisions about matters that affect the neighborhood. Typically, members of the Executive Committee also participate in subcommittees such as Beautification, Nominations, Zoning and Planning, Communications, etc. To get a better idea of what transpires at these meetings, read the minutes from the latest EC meeting in this newsletter and/or the minutes from previous meetings on the web site ([www.allandalereporter.org](http://www.allandalereporter.org)).

The EC is comprised of 11 members, four of which are officers: the president, the vice-president, the secretary, and the treasurer. Elections are held every year at the general meeting in September, (the Fourth Thursday of the month). If you are interested in being on the Executive Committee, let us know. The only position on the Executive Committee that requires previous experience is the position of the President. ANA's bylaws require that the nominees for the offices of president shall have served on the Executive Committee for 12 months.

The primary role of an Executive Committee member is serving on one of the Committees. Committees do much of the work. No matter what your interest is or available time, you can likely find a committee of interest. Committee participation, by the way, is not limited to ANA Executive Committee members. Committees are described below and typically meet once per month. It is a great way to contribute to building and preserving community in Allandale and to meet your neighbors!

We are looking for people with a desire to make the neighborhood better,

people who are willing to work, and people who are effective at getting things done. If you would like to know more about serving on ANA's Executive Committee or just getting involved as a committee member, please contact our Nominating Committee chair, Joe Reynolds [joe-reynolds@texas.net](mailto:joe-reynolds@texas.net) or me, Tom Linehan, [tlinehan@austin.rr.com](mailto:tlinehan@austin.rr.com) (452-1168).

### Allandale Neighborhood Committees

#### Executive Committee:

The Executive Committee meets once per month. This is the governing body of the Allandale Neighborhood Association and endeavors to build our sense of community and guide future development in a way that protects the integrity of the Allandale Neighborhood. Executive Committee members also participate on one or more of the committees listed below. Elections for the Executive Committee are held in September of every year. Current president – Tom Linehan [tlinehan@austin.rr.com](mailto:tlinehan@austin.rr.com).

#### Zoning and Planning Committee:

The Zoning Committee seeks to protect the SF-2 core of our neighbor-

*Continued on page 19*



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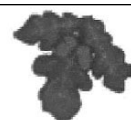
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NCUA

## Few Good Neighbors

*Continued from page 17*

hood and prevent inappropriate development in Allandale. The goal of this committee is to be pro-active rather than reactive by educating neighbors and developers about the zoning and development concerns within our neighborhood. We offer support to neighbors who seek help with zoning and development issues and are working to increase code enforcement by City of Austin officials. Chair: Paulette Kern [paulettekern@sbcglobal.net](mailto:paulettekern@sbcglobal.net).

### Nominations Committee:

The Nominations Committee works to get neighbors involved in the ANA and solicits recommendations from the community for potential members of the Executive Committee. Chair: Joe Reynolds [joe-rey@texas.net](mailto:joe-rey@texas.net).

### Beautification Committee:

The Allandale Beautification Committee is dedicated to maintaining and improving green spaces throughout the neighborhood by increasing public awareness of the importance of keeping Allandale clean, working closely with government organizations (city, county, state) to identify and correct problem areas, promoting educational programs, coordinating efforts with local businesses and civic organizations. Most projects require short commitment, and you will get plenty of support! Committee Chair: Linnea Anderson [linneakay@austin.rr.com](mailto:linneakay@austin.rr.com) or call her at 512-750-8902.

### Membership Committee:

Seeks to increase membership in the ANA and maintains the membership database. Chair: Joe Reynolds [joe-rey@texas.net](mailto:joe-rey@texas.net).

### Communications Committee:

This committee solicits and writes articles for the Newsletter, *The Allandale Neighbor*, and prepares it for publication and distribution. The newsletter is published 6 times a year. This committee facilitates communications between the ANA and Allandale neighbors by maintaining the neighborhood website—[www.allandalereporter.org](http://www.allandalereporter.org) and moderating the newsgroup (To subscribe, send a

blank email to [allandale-subscribe@yahoogroups.com](mailto:allandale-subscribe@yahoogroups.com)). Chair: Tom Linehan [tlinehan@austin.rr.com](mailto:tlinehan@austin.rr.com).

### Bylaws Committee

Evaluates our current bylaws and makes recommendations for updates where needed. Chair: Dan Jones [dan@jones-valdez.com](mailto:dan@jones-valdez.com).

### Events/Fundraising Committee

This committee organizes fundraising and free events to build community and to ensure that the ANA has the financial resources to continue support of community initiatives and the ability to respond to legal issues. Chair: Joe Reynolds [joe-rey@texas.net](mailto:joe-rey@texas.net).

### Neighborhood Safety Committee:

The newly formed ANA Safety Committee is implementing a block captain system to help foster a safe and cohesive community. The underlying principles upon which Neighborhood Watch programs operate are a) neighbors watching out for each other, and b) creating a sense of identity within the neighborhood. Block captains are people who help facilitate both of these things. Donna Beth McCormick [dbmc@texas.net](mailto:dbmc@texas.net).

Some of the current initiatives underway include: flood control, neighborhood watch groups, VMU (vertical mixed use) developments along Burnet and Anderson roads, beautification initiatives, events such as the Fourth of July and Celebrate Allandale Picnic, contributing to the newsletter and web site, and many others. If you are interested in any of these initiatives, but are not interested in being on the Executive Committee, we could use your help! The time commitment need not be large; as little as one meeting a month can make a difference in your neighborhood. Whatever your interest, there is something for you! Contact Joe Reynolds, our Nominating Committee chair, [joe-rey@texas.net](mailto:joe-rey@texas.net) if you are interested in being on the ANA Executive Committee, or Tom Linehan, [tlinehan@austin.rr.com](mailto:tlinehan@austin.rr.com) (452-1168) to help out with any of the neighborhood committees. ❖

## Presentation on Austin Tomorrow Comprehensive Plan

*Cynthia Keohane*

The April 2008 Austin Neighborhoods Council (ANC) general meeting featured a presentation on the interim update of the Austin Tomorrow Comprehensive Plan.

The presenter, Garner Stoll, is the Assistant Director of the Comprehensive Planning Division. Stoll stated that Austin Tomorrow, not Envision Central Texas, is the plan for the City of Austin.

The City of Austin website terms Austin Tomorrow the “oldest and most fundamental building block of our long-range planning” and states that it was adopted in 1979 as a planning tool to guide development. The plan itself is required by the City Charter, which specifies that one responsibility of the Planning Commission is to “make and amend a master plan for the physical development of the city.”

The City Council adopted a resolution on December 13, 2007 authorizing an interim update to the Austin Tomorrow Comprehensive Plan. According to the resolution, the goal of the update is to remove obsolete policies and replace them with existing adopted policies, revise the various maps with the best data currently available, and integrate existing adopted city plans and policies regarding growth and development in one comprehensive document. The City Manager was also directed to study alternative approaches to accomplish necessary long range planning for the City of Austin within the context of the greater Austin region

To view a draft of the update and for other information on the process, visit this link to the COA web site: [http://www.ci.austin.tx.us/zoning/com\\_plan.htm](http://www.ci.austin.tx.us/zoning/com_plan.htm).

ANC meetings are open to all. ANC meets the fourth Wednesday of every month, usually at 7 p.m., at the Austin Energy Building, 721 Barton Springs Rd.

For more information about Austin Neighborhoods Council, see <http://www.ancweb.org/about.htm>. ❖

## May ANA Executive Committee Meeting Minutes

Margie Gordon, Acting ANA Secretary

The regular monthly Executive Committee (EC) meeting of the Allandale Neighborhood Association (ANA) was held on Thursday, May 22, 2008, at 6:30 at Ralph Yarborough Library. The president in the chair and the secretary absent, so secretarial duties were assigned to Margie Gordon. The minutes of the last EC meeting (24 April 2008) were read and approved as corrected.

### Treasurer's Report: Joe Reynolds

Current Balance: \$19,536.88  
with \$207 pending. \$19,743.88  
Deposits: \$ 8,219.83  
Expenses: \$ 3,623.82  
Net: \$ 4,596.01

Cheryl Silver gave a presentation about the National Wildlife Foundation Wildlife Habitat Competition, one of Austin's "green" endeavors. She would like our Allandale neighborhood to participate in this contest which runs from May 1, 2008 to October 31, 2008, and to become a certified Community for Wildlife. In order to become certified, businesses and residences replace invasive plants with ones native to our environment and people are educated about appropriate water, shelter, and food sources for birds, butterflies, and honey bees. Points are awarded to individuals and business persons who register and complete the certification process. The community which receives the most points is awarded a prize. Interested parties may contact Cheryl at 454-7219 for more information.

### Committee Reports:

#### Vertical Mixed Use (VMU):

Allan McMurtry spoke in protest of the Vertical Mixed Use Overlay District (VMUOD) as a business owner in the area. Anne Young and Steven Zettner asked for EC support of the prioritization of the exclusion of tracts 2, 3, 5, and 7 through 10 from the VMUOD. George Roman made the motion to support this prioritization. The motion was seconded and a vote was taken. Four members voted in favor of the motion, one voted against it, and one member abstained from voting.

The committee also asked the EC to withdraw the Opt In/Opt Out (OI/OO)

Application recommendations for residential density limitations, for the requirement of public green space, and for the requirement of specific owner-occupancy rates, George Roman made a motion to this effect and Cynthia Keohane seconded the motion. It passed four to two.

#### Safety Committee Report:

Laura DiCarlo reported that 32 people have been trained as block captains and four or five more are ready to be trained. The safety committee will meet in the near future.

In other business, the EC approved writing a letter in support of a resident who wants an eight foot fence variance.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:30. ❖

## Dog Talk: The Itchy Dog

Cheryl Silver, [csilver2@austin.rr.com](mailto:csilver2@austin.rr.com)

First of all, I am not a veterinarian or even a vet tech. The comments that follow are simply my thoughts about this issue. Your veterinarian is your best resource.

Also, because of limited space, I am really just skimming the surface. My contact info is above if you want to call and chat. Additionally, for this discussion I am including excessive licking of body parts such as paws and groin along with scratching and chewing. Some dogs have fur and skin that is discolored by excessive licking.

One important note: if your dog is scratching so much at night that the rattling tags are keeping you up, tape the tags together to reduce the noise — please do not remove the dog's collar or identification.

Some itching can be the result of a food allergy. It appears that these can develop over time, so a dog who has done well on a food may eventually not do so well. Of course, the manufacturers may change the formula, which can complicate the situation. Very commonly, corn, wheat, soy, and sorghum cause allergies in dogs. I avoid foods with these ingredients altogether. Dogs may also begin reacting to certain proteins, and many dogs are allergic to lamb—a protein that many people believe is hypoallergenic.

Here in Austin we see lots of pollens and molds (and other fungi) that some dogs will react to—often, it seems to me, by licking. If your pooch wakes up in the



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morning with a nice clear belly but by the end of the day her belly is glowing red, she may be having a reaction to something out in the grass. One thing that may help in such a situation is to simply wipe your dog's paws and belly with a cool damp wash cloth — no soap — when she comes into the house. Give her a yummy treat as you wipe each foot and she will come to look forward to this little ritual. If she is having allergy eyes, there are non-prescription eye washes at all the pet stores that may give your pooch some relief. Again, treats help when doing this.

Fleas are a real problem here unless you are a person who uses flea preventative and your dog basically stays at home. Dogs that go out to dog parks and/or walk on trails frequented by other dogs may pick up fleas despite preventatives. Some folks find that alternating brands of preventatives monthly helps with effectiveness. Be sure to talk with your veterinarian about any possible contraindications for doing that.

If your dog is chewing at the base of his tail like a dog on a mission, it could be fleas. Look at the dog carefully at the

base of the tail or even in the groin area. If you see teensy little black "dirt," collect some of it, put it on a white surface, and add a few drops of water. If you see the water start to turn red as the "dirt" dissolves, you are seeing "flea dirt"—a byproduct of the flea digesting your dog's blood—so you can be sure there are fleas even if you do not see them.

If you are sure your home territory is infested with fleas, you can consider spreading garden-grade diatomaceous earth (DE) around your yard and even in the house—sweeping it into corners and then vacuuming it up. It needs to be watered into your yard, so plan to do it when it rains. When you do vacuum, discard the vacuum bag outside the house. This treatment should be quite safe for your dogs and cats.

Another cause for itching is a condition called hypothyroidism. It is quite common in dogs. In some dogs it does cause problems with the skin, and if the underlying hypothyroidism is not treated, the skin problems will go on and on. It can also be an underlying contributor to recurrent fungal infections of the ear. Because the thyroid is not producing adequate hor-

mone, the skin may simply have a problem healing, so you may find yourself treating for skin infections repeatedly. The test that I believe has the most value for determining if a dog does have hypothyroidism runs about \$100 dollars, and is done at a large lab. The daily medication is very inexpensive. If the dog turns out to be hypothyroid, treating the condition may cause the skin problems to become a thing of the past. Believe me—I have definitely been down this very road.

There are many pieces of this problem that I have not touched on due to space. Remember, all of these things may be going on at once, and overnight miracles are far and few between. Hope this gives you something to think about. ❖

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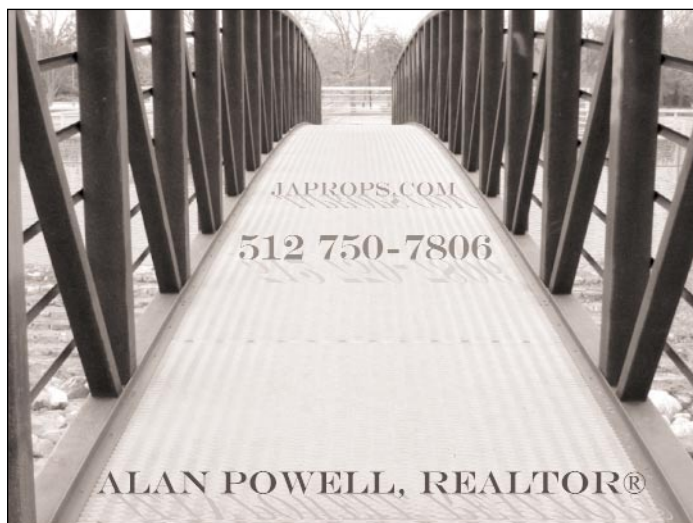
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## Gullett Good News

May 15, 2008

With summer vacation underway, the daily hustle and bustle of Gullett Elementary has almost come to a halt. There will be some activity at the school over the summer, however. For one thing, two new portables will be added to the Gullett campus. The new portables will house an additional first grade classroom, as well as a pre-k classroom for students with disabilities.

Along with the new classrooms, Gullett will add some new teachers to its staff in the fall. The school will have five first grades and welcome two new teachers for that grade level. Gullett also will have a new special education teacher and a new art specialist. Look for new teacher introductions in a future column.

While the school is looking for new teachers, the faculty and staff would also like to welcome more second graders!

This is a terrific, hands-on year at Gullett, and all neighborhood kids are invited to check out the curriculum. For information, contact the school principal, Janie Ruiz at [jaruiz@austinisd.org](mailto:jaruiz@austinisd.org).

Gullett students will be on-campus at times throughout the summer. The incoming kindergartners will get to know the playground and some new friends at several play dates scheduled for the following days:

- Sunday, June 22 from 3 – 5 p.m. at the Gullett kindergarten playground
- Friday, July 11 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Northwest pool
- Tuesday, July 22 from 6:30 – 7:30 p.m. at the Gullett kindergarten playground
- Friday, August 8 from 5 – 7 p.m. at Northwest pool
- Wednesday, August 20 from 9 – 10:30 a.m. at the kindergarten playground
- Monday, August 25 (first day of school): Parents are invited to meet for coffee after drop-off.

Second and third graders will have math camps; third, fourth, and fifth graders will enjoy Camp Bluebonnet in the Library; and there will even be a Jazzer-camp in mid-June.

Gullett garden day will be August 23 at 9 a.m. Those neighbors with a green thumb will be asked to help out. Come anytime that morning.

### Odyssey of the Mind

Before taking the long summer break, three Gullett teams of six or seven students in third, fourth, and fifth grade competed in the Odyssey of the Mind (OotM) competition. Two teams advanced from the regional meet in Goesbeck to the state competition in Houston. OotM is an international competition that challenges students to creatively solve problems. The teams work for five months to solve open-ended long-term problems. Solutions to these problems are presented in eight-minute skits.



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Gullett teams accomplished the following:

- The "Road Rally" team built a vehicle that could complete five tasks or sports. The Gullett team placed first at regional competition and made an impressive showing at the state meet.
- The "Tee Structure" team was asked to build a structure weighing only 18 grams, made of balsa wood and glue. The structure had to be able to hold up to 10 golf balls. The Gecko team placed third in regional competition and, at the state meet, was awarded the Omer award. The Omer award, named for the Odyssey of the Mind raccoon mascot Omer, recognizes individuals or teams who demonstrate outstanding sportsmanship, exemplary behavior, or exceptional talent. Out of the 48 teams competing at the state competition, only three Omer awards were given.
- "The Eccentrics" were challenged to develop at least three eccentric characters, using them to dramatize a problem in one of the Earth's systems and present a solution to that problem.

### Looking Ahead

Come fall, the PTA will have a new committee, the Family Fun Committee. This group is not waiting until late August to start having fun. The committee, which scheduled a very well-attended family movie night in April, will schedule a swimming party at Northwest pool.

The end-of-the-summer skate night will take place on August 21, the night before the students return to campus to find out who will be their teacher for the 2008 – 09 school year. Meet-the-teacher day will be Friday, August 22, from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. School will start on Monday, August 25.

But for most of the Gullett students and parents, it is much too soon to be thinking about the first day of school as they are busy enjoying summer vacation! ❖

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